Cranesbills (Geranium) in Edinburgh / Lothians

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Info

INSTRUCTIONS - Look at the flower size; for small (<2 cm) or larger (>=2 cm) jump to the appropriate section and follow the instruction at the section top.

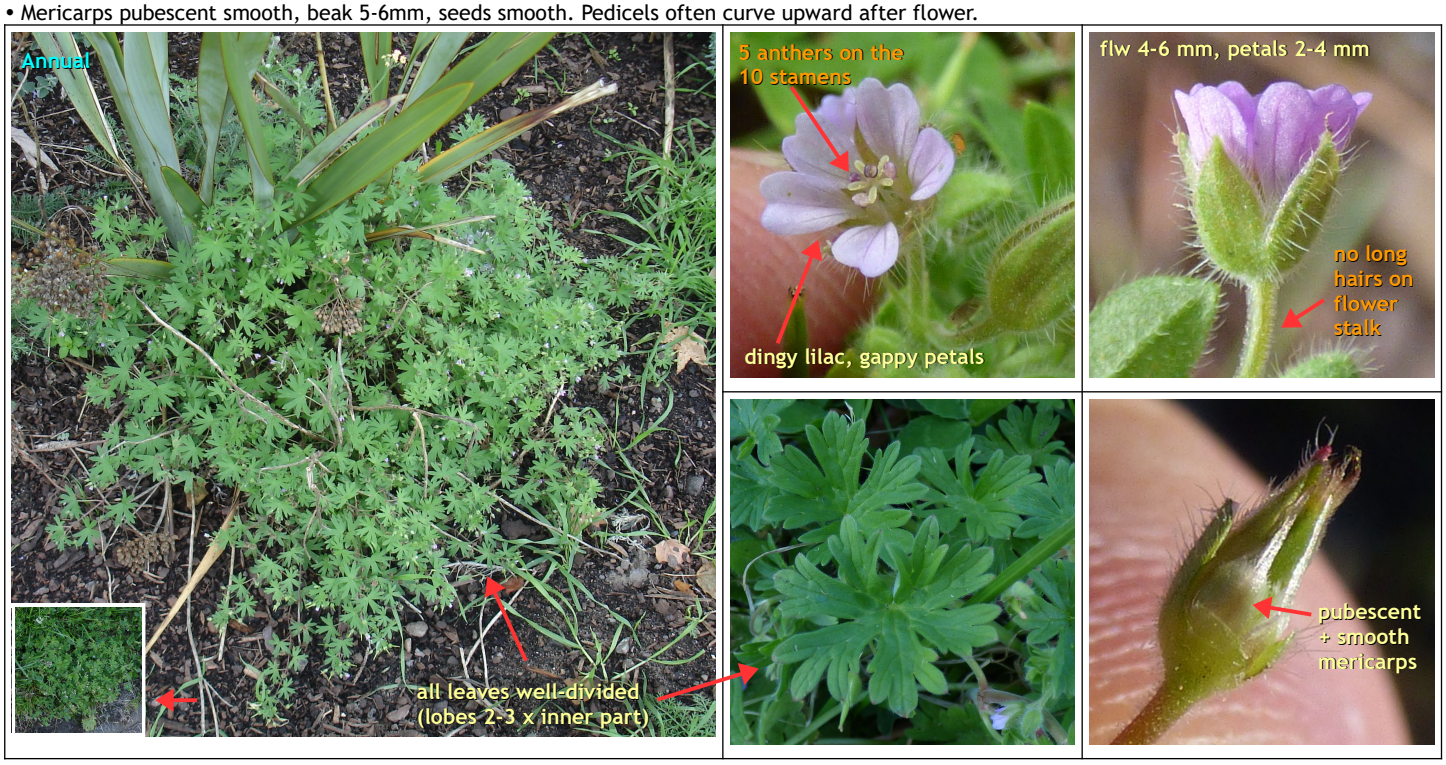
Leaf Shapes : Base/low leaves should be looked at, terminal leaves often look different.
Petal Measurements : Petal measurements are better than flower diameters. Pull off a petal or two and lay them flat on a wetted ruler so they stick and photograph & measure them.
Fruit Anatomy : See diagram at end.
Colour : Look out for white forms!

GER refs : GER page numbers are from Hardy Geraniums ed 2 by Peter Yeo.
Book pages generally : Blamey & Fitter ed 2 p174, Flora of British Isles ed 3 by Tutin-Clapham-Moore, p170, Flora Europaea v2 p194, Collins Flower Guide ed 1 p332, Sell & Murrell v3 p213, Stace ed 3 p342, Stella Craig-Ross v6 p41, Wild Flower Key ed rev p318, Flora of Turkey v2 p452, Hardy Geraniums ed 2 as per GER nums against each plant.

Small Flowers

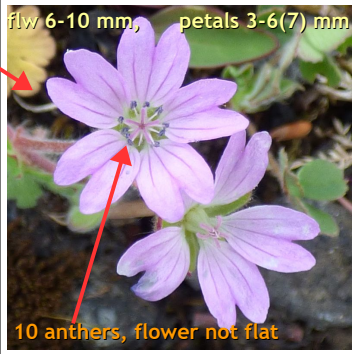
Look At - **Petals**: are they split, notched or whole? how large? **Leaves**: are they round, fan-shaped or drawn-out? dissected, ferny or broad-lobed? **Hairs**: are they long, short, appressed, glandy, a mixture? on which parts (stem, leaves, flower section)?

Small-Flowered Cranesbill - Frequent in the city and to east of especially near the coast - Geranium pusillum - Map - GER168
• Mericarps pubescent smooth, beak 5-6mm, seeds smooth. Pedicels often curve upward after flower.



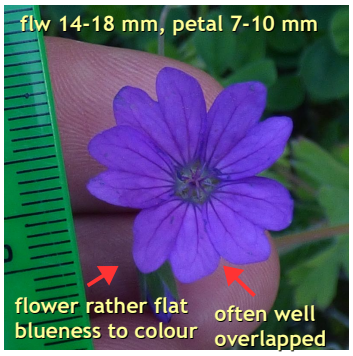
Dove's-Foot Cranesbill - Widespread but rare in hills - Geranium molle - Map - GER169

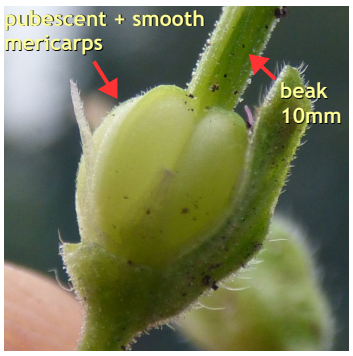
• Mericarps hairless, wrinkled or rarely (var aequale) smooth, keeled; beak 5-8 mm; seeds smooth. Pedicels c. ascending and often curve upwards after flower.



Hedgerow Cranesbill - Common in the city and east of, occasional elsewhere - Geranium pyrenaicum - Map - GER41

• Mericarps pubescent smooth; beak c 10mm; seeds smooth. Pedicels deflexed after flower, curving upwards near apex so fruit is erect.

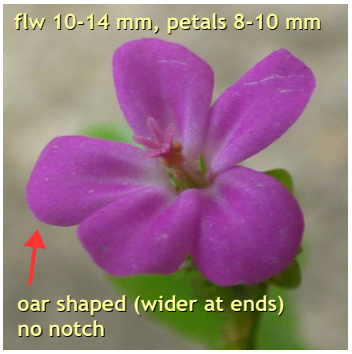


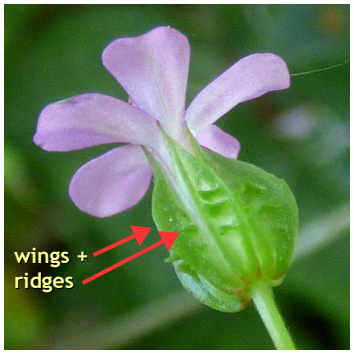


Round-Leaved Cranesbill - Occasional records from city to N Berwick - Geranium rotundifolium - Map - GER66

• Mericarps pubescent smooth; beak 10-15 mm; seeds putted. Pedicels spreading or somewhat deflexed after flower, turning upwards at apex.

Shining Cranesbill - Frequent to Common except hills - Geranium lucidum - Map - GER169

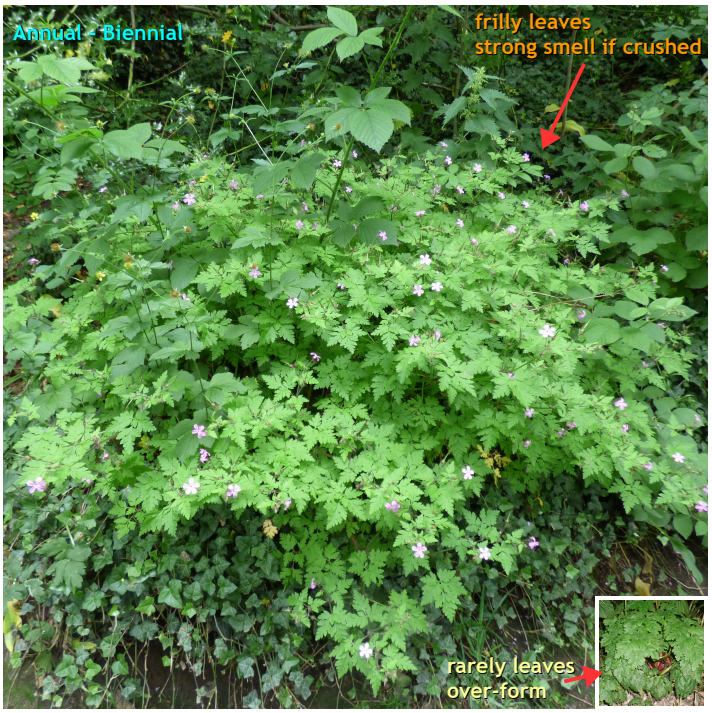


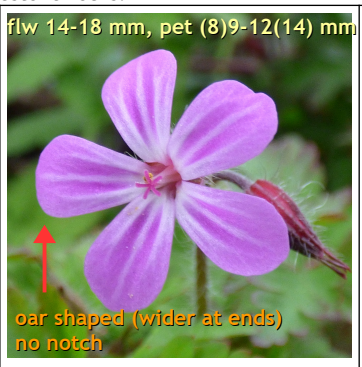


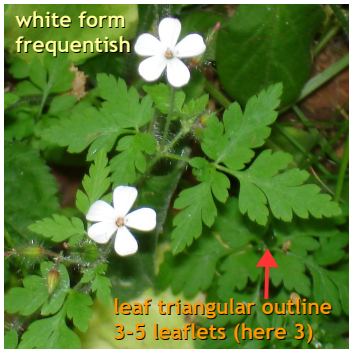
Herb Robert - Universal except high hills - Geranium robertianum - Map - GER176

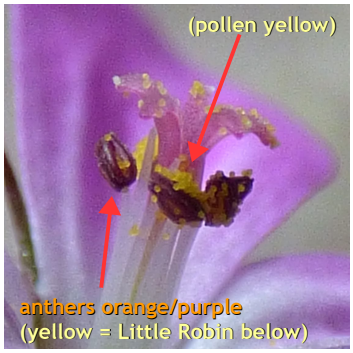
• Mericarps reticulately ridged (few longitudinals) with short stiff hairs (usu on ridges) or hairless, beak 10-20mm, seeds smooth. Pedicels ascending after flower, mostly straight.

• ssp robertianum 1st-year rosette dense mound-like, flower stems ascend, stems dull deep red, leaf-segments broad, petals 2 x sepals or more, fruit hairy, common inland form; ssp maritimum 1st-year rosette open procumbent, flower stems procumbent or arcuate-ascending, stems and leaves often hairless, flowers usu rather smaller, fruit usu hairless, shingle beaches, sometimes cliffs or walls near sea; ssp celticum annual, red only at nodes, leaf-stalks rather short, flowers pale, fruit hairy large, sunny limestone rocks.



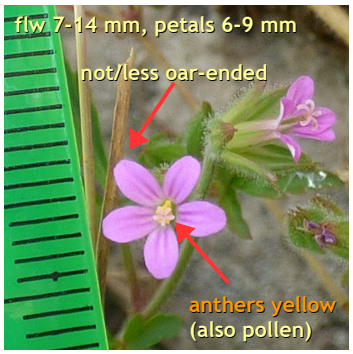






Little Robin - Not recorded in region (mostly S Coast of England & Ireland) - Geranium purpureum - Map - GER175 -

• As Herb Robert above, but yellow anthers (v orange/purple) (pollen still yellow), smaller more symmetrical flowers (flw 7-14 mm (v 14-18), petals 6-9 mm (v (8)9-12)), less reddish, narrower leaves (segments narrow), flower stalks and calyx hairier, fruits with more pronounced and more numerous ridges (v net-ridged with fewer longitudinals) and hairless.

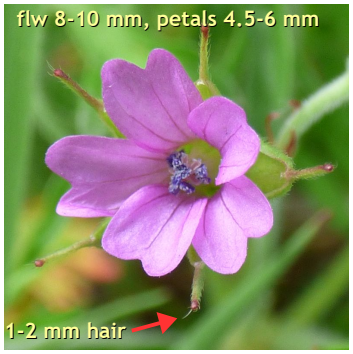


Long-Stalked Crane's-bill - Very rare (Galashiels eastward and Dunfermline to Burntisland area) - Geranium columbinum - Map - GER116

• Mericarps no/sparse hair smooth, beak 15-20 mm, seed minutely pitted. Pedicels spread and often curve upwards after flower.

Cut-Leaved Cranesbill - Common within 10km of coast, less common further - Geranium dissectum - Map - GER146

• Mericarps pubescent smooth beak 7-12 mm, seeds pitted. Pedicels spread or ascend after flower.

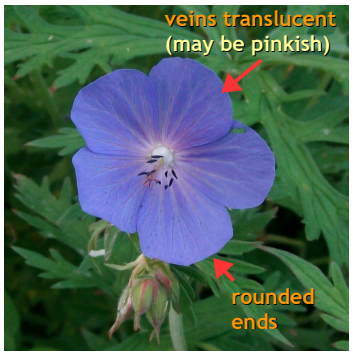


Medium Flowers

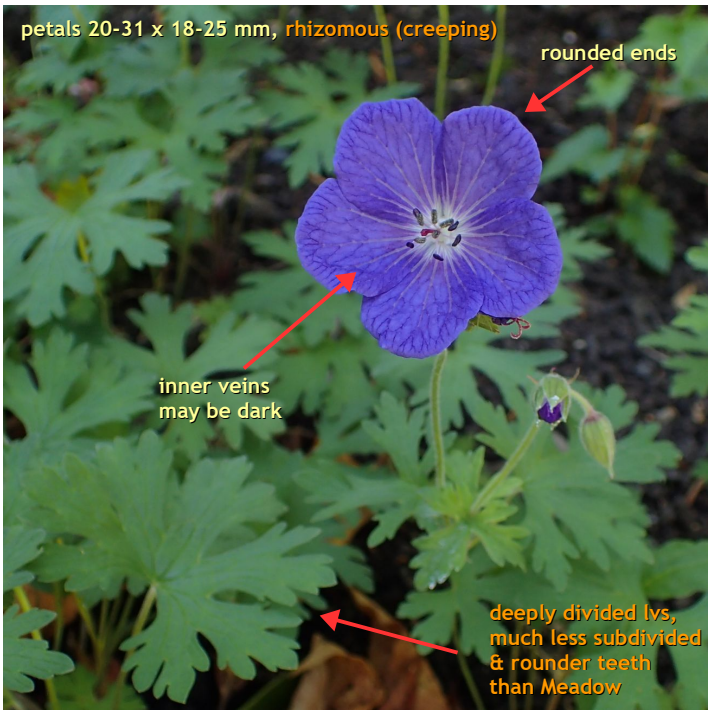
Look at : Are the stamens long, dangling out and down (Rock, Cambridge, Dalmaticum)? Check the base leaves - how deeply are they cut into lobes?

Meadow Cranesbill - Widespread outside hills - Geranium pratense - Map - GER78

• Mericarps glandy-hairy smooth, beak c25 mm, seeds minutely netted. Pedicels reflex after flower becoming erect in fruit.



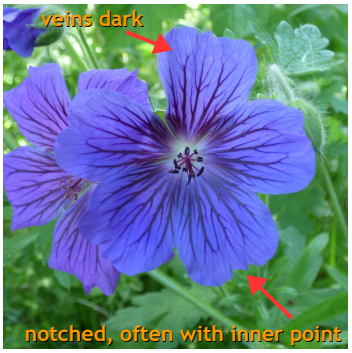
Himalayan Cranesbill - 1 records in city, 1 near airport, 2 in Fife near coast - Geranium himalayense - Map - GER83

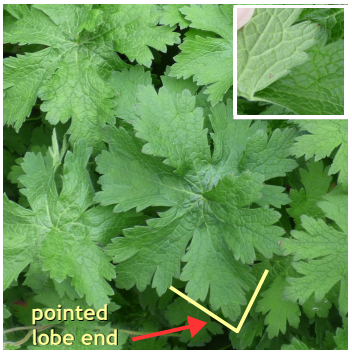


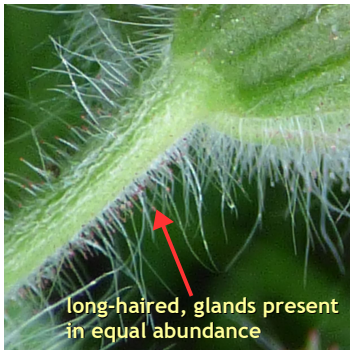
Krzysztof Ziarnek

Purple Cranesbill - Sizeable number of records - Geranium ibericum x platypetalum = G. x magnificum - Map - GER153

Similar :if no glands then G. ibericum ssp ibericum; G. ibericum (height to 50 cm; lobes 1-2 long as wide, broadest near middle; flw 40-48 mm; petals 24-26 x 16-17 mm - see pic at end); if rather broad rounded lobe ends (& glands then G. platypetalum (height to 40 cm; lobes broader than long, broadest near end; flw 30-45 mm; petals 16-22 x 13-19 mm).

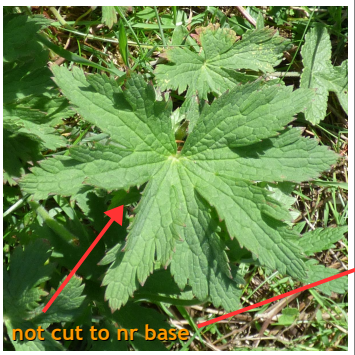


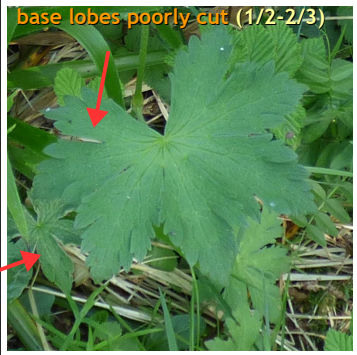




Wood Cranesbill - Frequent but patchy - Geranium sylvaticum - Map - GER67

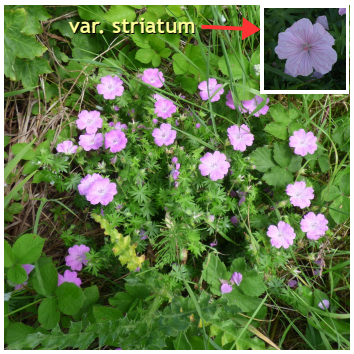
• Mericarps glandy-hairy smooth, beak 25 mm, seeds minutely netted. Pedicels erect after flower.





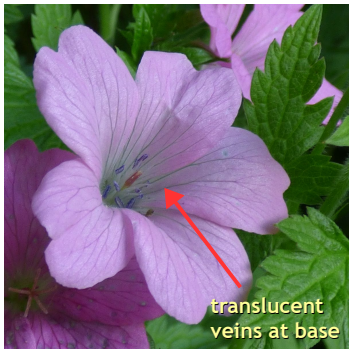
Bloody Cranesbill - Occasional in City and to east - Geranium sanguineum - Map
var. striatum (pale pink base col., dark veins) - 1 rec nr Musselburgh - Map - Images - GER114

• Mericarps sparingly hairy, smooth, beak c 30mm, seeds minutely dotted.



Druce's Cranesbill - Records throughout city and frequent to West, occasional otherwise - Geranium endressii x versicolor = G. x oxonianum - Map - GER62

• **Note** : Since this is a hybrid, it can vary in the range between its parents - between the white, dark-veined, funnel-shaped Pencilled and the strong pink, translucent-veined, trumpet-shaped French. So pale pink flowers usually indicate this hybrid, and dark smudges on the leaves may also be visible, inherited from Pencilled, indicating the hybrid if the flower is stronger pink.



French Cranesbill - Not uncommon near residences - Geranium endressii - Map - GER61

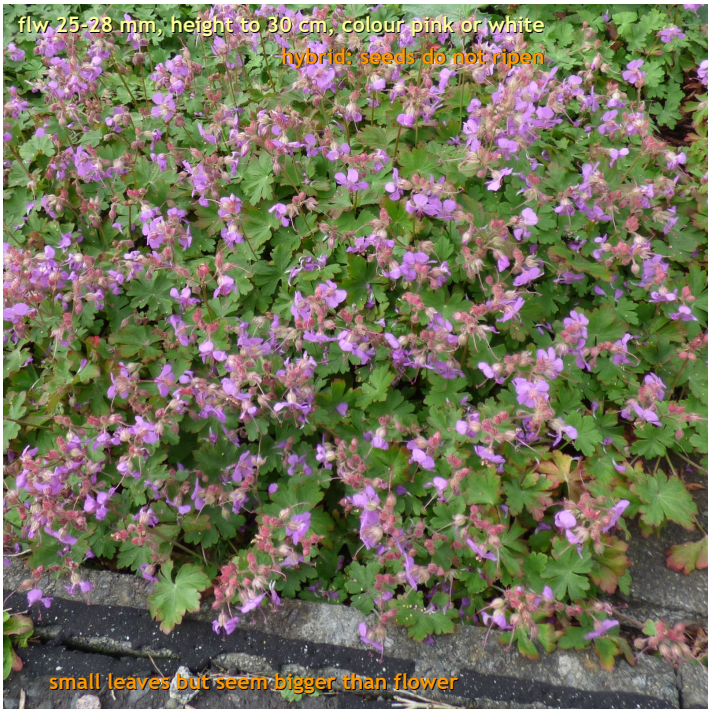
Emőke Dénes on Wikipedia

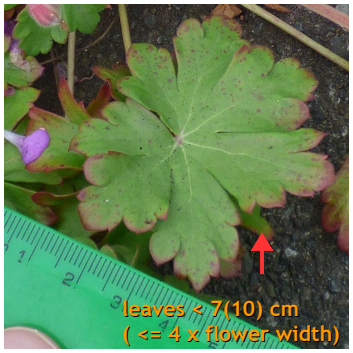
Pencilled Cranesbill - Rare occasional - Geranium versicolor - Map - GER64

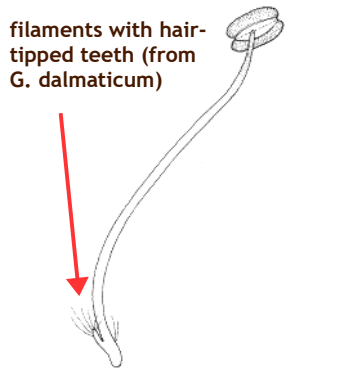
Christina Cattaneo on researchgate.net

Rock Cranesbill - Encountered from time to time - Geranium macrorrhizum - Map - GER171

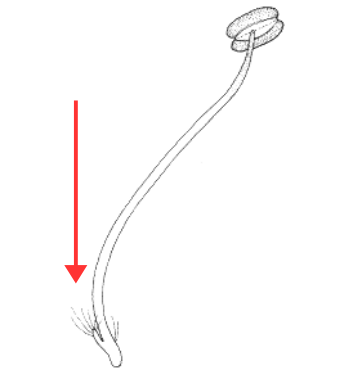
Cambridge Cranesbill - 3 records; met in gardens - Geranium macrorrhizum x dalmaticum = G. x cantabrigiense - Map - GER172







Geranium dalmaticum - 3 recent city records - Geranium dalmaticum - Map - GER174



wrightmanalpines.com

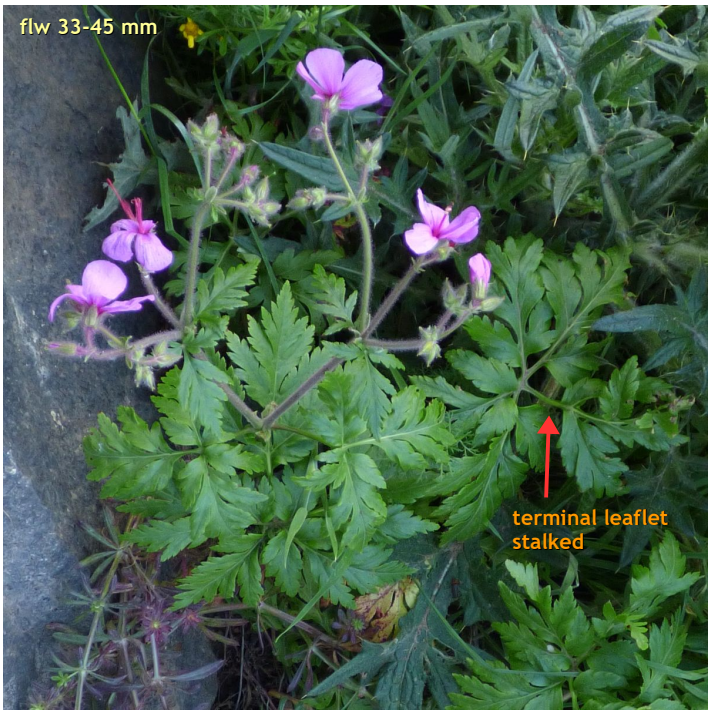
Dusky Cranesbill - Sizeable number of records - Geranium phaeum - Map - GER182

• Mericarps hairy with several strong transverse ridges near apex, beak c 15 mm. Pedicels erect or ascending after flower.

Munich Cranesbill - 1 near Gorebridge, old rec near S Queensferry - Geranium phaeum x reflexum = G. x monacense - Map - GER185

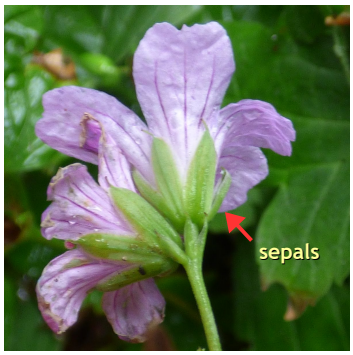
• Hybrid between the above and G. reflexum (G. reflexum has petals twice as long as wide and well bent back, as seen in the picture online).

Canary Island Cranesbill - 2 near Ratho - Geranium palmatum - Map - GER179



Other Escapes

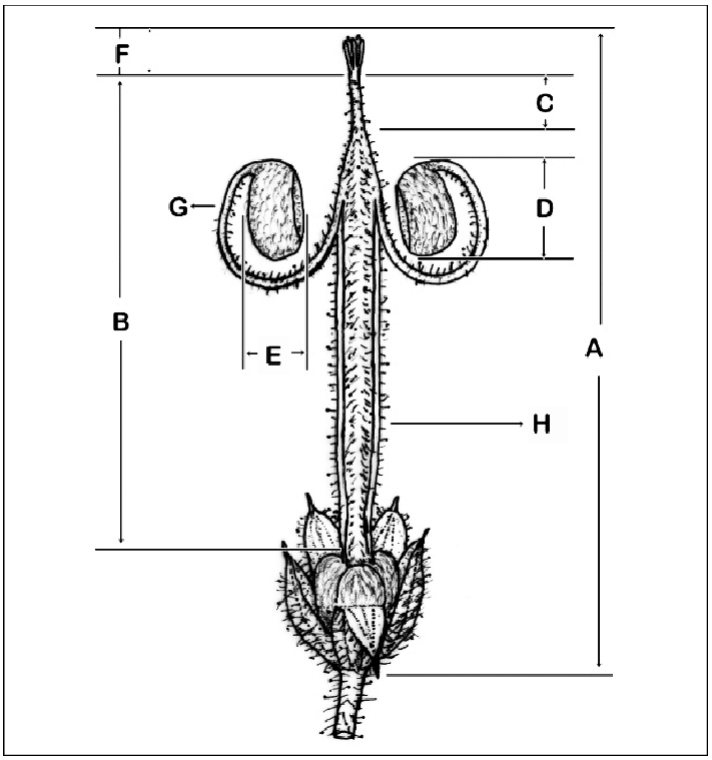
Knotted Cranesbill - 1 rec Stobwood 1 in Fife and a few old records just W of Edinburgh - Geranium nodosum - Map - GER65



(Wallichianum) Cranesbill	Caucasian Cranesbill	Giant Herb Robert
Geranium wallichianum 'Buxton's Blue'	Geranium ibericum	Geranium maderense
1 city record - Map - GER89	1 old record near Haddington - Map - GER152	1 rec near Tranent - Map - GER180
macplants.co.uk	Dinkum	plantmaster.com

Armenian Cranesbill		
Geranium psilostemon		
1 rec near Granton - Map - GER74		
davisla.wordpress.com		

Structure



A: Fruit size
B: Rostrum length
C: Rostrum with a narrowed apex (neck) length
D: Mericarp length
E: Mericarp width
F: Stigmatic remains
G: Awn
H: Columella

From Kemal Yildiz at researchgate.net

Info

Updated : 2020-06-18 – please check you have the latest version!

Contact : David Merrick – facebook.com/meteorquake

Facebook Botany Group for Lothians : facebook.com/groups/lothiansbotany

All items in this Series : paintdrawer.co.uk/nature/edinburgh/downloads.htm